

HOUSE RESOLUTION 17

By Lynn

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Brian Harris for his work with Tennessee Right to Life.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should salute those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Brian Harris is one such estimable individual, who has dedicated much of his life to the protection of unborn children and their mothers, serving for twenty years as the president of this State's premier pro-life organization, Tennessee Right to Life; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Indiana, Mr. Harris relocated to Nashville in the early nineties to pursue a career in music; he soon found his true calling, however, and devoted the next twenty-eight years to establishing an effective statewide pro-life movement; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, he revived the local Nashville chapter of Tennessee Right to Life, then known as Tennessee Volunteers for Life, while also founding New Life Resources, a pro-life nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness and resources for women and families facing unexpected pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Brian Harris was elected as the president of Tennessee Right to Life, and he served in that capacity for twenty-three years, the longest tenure of any president; during this time, the organization grew in statewide membership, staff, and influence; and

WHEREAS, much of the change Mr. Harris effected came from the state legislative level; for a time, he worked in the office of Senator Douglas Henry, and in 2003, his efforts led to the authorized sale of the "Choose Life" specialty license plate, with funds directed to New Life Resources and more than \$1 million in proceeds benefiting pro-life agencies and projects; and

WHEREAS, his work at the legislative level also led to the required posting of non-coercion language inside Tennessee abortion facilities, a forty-eight-hour waiting period and informed consent statutes for abortion-vulnerable women, required in-person consultation with abortion providers, required inspection and licensure of abortion facilities, the requirement of abortion providers to hold admitting privileges at local hospitals, and a ban on the use of telemedicine for dispensing RU 486 abortion pills, to name but a few of the many changes he helped enact; and

WHEREAS, Brian Harris's other contributions to Tennessee's pro-life efforts include the coordination of one of the nation's largest pro-life student speech contests, purchase of property and refurbishing of a donated home for pro-life work, establishment of a pregnancy center outreach in south Nashville, operation of urban thrift store outreaches in Nashville, leadership of the YES on 1 pro-life constitutional amendment, and coordination of an amicus brief in support of pro-life Amendment 1; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris has been wholly committed to the goals and efforts of Tennessee Right to Life, having dedicated himself to its pro-life cause for nearly three decades, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Brian Harris for his impressive commitment to Tennessee Right to Life and his twenty-year tenure as the organization's president, thank him for his unwavering conviction and dedication to preserving and protecting life in the State of Tennessee, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.